

What is claimed is:

1. An information providing apparatus including a database in which information relating to a predetermined media can be searched by key data generated based on information at a predetermined place of said media.

2. An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said key data is generated by calculating a portion of index data of said media in a predetermined manner.

3. An information acquiring apparatus comprising:  
means for acquiring information relating to a predetermined media by transmitting key data generated based on information at a predetermined place of a predetermined media and by receiving results obtained when an external apparatus has searched said key data based on transmitted data.

4. An information acquiring apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said transmission and reception are executed via the Internet.

5. An information acquiring apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said key data is generated by calculating a portion of index data of said media in a predetermined manner.

6. An information acquiring apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said transmission is executed by detecting that said predetermined media is inserted.

7. An information providing method comprising the step of:  
paying a predetermined charge to a media contents owner from a database owner having a database in which information relating to a predetermined media can be searched by key data based on information at a predetermined place of said media when a user of said database uses said database.

8. An information providing method comprising the step of:  
searching information relating to a predetermined media of a database by key data generated based on information at a predetermined place of said media.

9. An information providing method according to claim 8, wherein said key data is generated by calculating a portion of index data of said media in a predetermined manner.

10. An information acquiring method comprising the step of:  
acquiring information relating to a predetermined media by transmitting key data generated based on information at a predetermined place of said media to the outside and by receiving results obtained when an external apparatus has searched said key data based on transmitted data.

11. An information acquiring method according to claim 10, wherein said transmission and reception are executed via the Internet.

12. An information acquiring method according to claim 10, wherein said key data is generated by calculating a portion of index data of said media in a predetermined manner.

13. An information acquiring method according to claim 10, wherein said transmission is executed when said predetermined media is inserted.

14. A program comprising the step of:  
searching information relating to a predetermined media of a database by key data generated based on information at a predetermined place of said media.

15. A program according to claim 14, wherein said key data is generated by calculating a portion of index data of said media in a predetermined manner.

16. A program comprising the step of:  
acquiring information relating to a predetermined media by transmitting key data generated based on information at a predetermined place of said predetermined media and by receiving results obtained when an external apparatus has searched said key data based on transmitted data.

17. A program according to claim 16, wherein said transmission and said reception are executed via the Internet.

18. A program according to claim 16, wherein said key data is generated by calculating a portion of index data of said media in a predetermined manner.

19. A program according to claim 16, wherein said transmission is executed when said predetermined media is inserted.